

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment presents new claims 27-55 for examination. The new claims are directed to isolated nucleic acid molecules encoding the amino acid sequences of Drosophila Odorant Receptor proteins or fragments thereof, wherein (i) said Drosophila Odorant Receptor proteins are expressed in one or both Drosophila olfactory organs selected from the group consisting of antenna and maxillary palp; (ii) said Drosophila Odorant Receptor proteins contain seven transmembrane domains as defined by hydropathy analysis; and (iii) said nucleic acid molecules encode proteins or fragments thereof which cause the firing of an olfactory neuron when stimulated. Applicants believe that the claims are allowable, given that the present inventors have isolated a significant number of species of a novel gene family in Drosophila encoding odorant receptors as described in the recited claims.

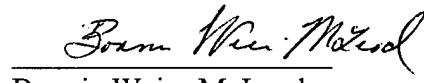
New claim 27 finds support in the specification at the very least at page 56, lines 20-22, page 58, lines 18-20, page 14, lines 22-23, and in Example 3, beginning on page 61, line 11. New claim 28 finds support in original claim 13, the paragraph bridging pages 16 and 17, page 55, line 20 to page 56, line 3, page 57, lines 15-18 and in Figure 3. New claims 26-37 and 51-53 employ language from the issued claims of the parent application, which, as is evident by the issuance of the parent application, has already been examined and determined to be acceptable (see U.S. Patent 6,610,511). Support for the many of the new claims may also be found in the original claims. No prohibited new matter has been added by way of this amendment.

Entry and examination of the new claims is respectfully requested.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 CFR §1.18, the commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the pendency of this application including fees due under 37 CFR §1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 CFR §1.136(a)(3).

If the Examiner has any questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, he or she is respectfully encouraged to contact the undersigned by telephone at his or her convenience.

Respectfully submitted,



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